

Rt. 8, Frederick, Md. 21701
7/6/75

Dr. James B. Rhoads, Archivist
The National Archives
Washington, D.C. 20408

Dear Dr. Rhoads,

This is a request for public information under the Freedom of Information Act unless you elect to make full response within the time prescribed by that law. Where you would prefer to respond by supplying the documents, that will satisfy me. Where there are no records, I would like to know this. Where documents are withheld, if any are, I would like to know enough about each to decide whether or not I want to make further effort to obtain any.

Recently I obtained what is represented as all those records released in a 1973 declassification and thereafter. Among these is CS 702, a letter of March 31, 1964 from J. Edgar Hoover to J. Lee Rankin five pages long with eight attachments totalling another 12 pages. These relate to the FBI's criteria for informing the Secret Service about threats against the president and others.

I would like the documents relating to the withholding of these 13 pages for so long, particularly when they were published by the Commission as its Exhibit 836.

I was also supplied with a May 22, 1964 letter ^{ed} Mr. Hoover wrote Mr. Rankin relating to Mexican tourists permits. While there is ~~no~~ ^{Confidential} classification marked on this letter it was declassified by the Department of Justice on August 13, 1965. It thereafter was not released by the Archives until its declassification of April 16, 1974. I would like what documents relate to this withholding for an extra nine years or, your option, an explanation that provides the same information.

There is a similar letter dated July 7, 1964 relating to Mexican Immigration Department records 46 enclosures of which were forwarded with it. This letter was originally classified Confidential. No declassification is stamped on it. The information I seek is the basis for the original classification and of the declassification - why it was ever classified and why it was not declassified for so long where there were all those regular reviews.

From the Oswald Post-Russian Period 3-1 files there is an almost illegible copy of the carbon of a letter Mr. Rankin wrote Mr. Hoover under date of April 24, 1964. It was classified Secret. After reading it I do not see what justified this classification. It was not declassified in any of the regular declassifications or reviews but was specially declassified by the Archives March 13 of this year. I would like what records there are relating to all aspects of this or, if you prefer, explanations. I would also like to know what is referred to by the Oswald dossier in the paragraph numbered 5 or if it is not lengthy, a copy.

The FBI placed no classification on its LHM summarizing its Nosenko interviews of February 26 and 27, 1964. It was not provided when I first requested copies of the Nosenko documents. It also bears no declassification. If there are records relating to withholding or releasing this I'd like copies or in the alternative explanations. (I have asked you earlier why my request was not filled fully and have had no response after a long time.) The last part of the first paragraph of this LHM has been blacked out. With the release of those documents it summarizes I presume there is nothing in this that now need be withheld and I would appreciate an uncensored copy.

I was provided with an unidentified page dated October 27, 1959 dealing with Oswald's Moscow hospitalization. On this I'd like to know the source and the reason for withholding all these years. No classification or declassification is indicated.

Also declassified March 2 13 of this year is the 111-page plus appendix report on Oswald's Foreign Activities, undated. Without close study it appears that parts of this were withheld in not less than four ways and times. With the disclosure of what in many of these places seems to have been the withheld source I ask for a review of these withholdings because I believe they are today neither necessary nor proper. An example is where these Nosenko papers are the source. With them not withheld reference to them it would seem need not be. If you agree I would appreciate copies of those pages that are incomplete in the version provided me.

I find no single CIA interview or report of any kind relating to what Nosenko told the CIA about Oswald or anything else relevant to the work of the Warren Commission. I ask for any and all such papers or any kind and if any are withheld, the records dealing with the withholding.

If there are any other Nosenko records of any kind still withheld I would like to have their identification and the records relating to any such withholding. I do not recall anything indicating that any such FBI records are now withheld but if any are I would like to know the same with regard to them.

There seems to have been an extraordinary declassification of records of this general kind around and after the March date. This date coincides with the decision to release to me the withheld executive session of January 22, 1964. Earlier I had obtained the January 27 transcript following my filing of C.A.2052-73. It was apparent to the Archives that I was seeking everything available on this general subject with sufficient interest to file suits and to exhaust administrative remedies. These records to which I have referred herein were not identified in the existing available records but clearly are on the same general subject. I was never informed of them, their existence or their declassification despite the certainty of my active and long-time interest in everything relating to this general subject.

When I requested all these records on learning of their existence and what for all practical purposes amounts to their exclusive release to another, much more was still withheld than was supplied me. While I would welcome an explanation of all of this I also request all records relating to these extraordinary declassifications that also just happen to coincide with the political uses the government agencies can make of them.

Having read all of what is not withheld from me still I see no reason for any of the extraordinary procedures relating to any of these Nosenko and related records. Some were never classified by the FBI. The highest classification it affixed on any that I recall was Confidential. Some were illegally classified Top Secret but they did not originate with any executive agency.

As a matter of fact, with Nosenko's defection well known to the Russians as was everything else he knew and could have told and with these records dealing only with Oswald and related matters I see no justification for any classification at any time. The only people from whom information was withheld were the American people. No proper purpose of classification of any grade seems to have been served or in fact in mind. So, I intend my request to extend to all records of classification going back to the original withholdings and the reasons for them as well as the classifications and declassifications.

If in addition you would care to make any other explanation of the obvious discrimination, the continued withholding after my request and of what I regard as ¹⁸¹denial to me of rights to these materials I would welcome it.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg